# Tech Center News®

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**Covers the Tech Center and the Immediate Area** 

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2017** 

# GM Tech Center Improvements in Final Phase

The end is nearer.

Renovations to the GM Tech Center in Warren are now entering their final stage.

Since GM first announced that the company was making changes and improvements to the Tech Center in May of 2015, new parking structures have been built and the interiors of buildings such as the Vehicle Engineering Center (VEC) have been rearranged and updated with the latest technology.

On Aug. 30, GM unveiled the plans to a 360,000-square-foot expansion of the GM Design studios. This is the final stage of a multiyear \$1 billion investment in GM's Global Technical Center, a National Historic Landmark site, said GM spokeswoman Robyn Henderson.

GM will break ground in mid-2018 on the new studio building, which will surround the iconic Design Dome Auditorium and viewing patio and connect to the existing Design Center, Henderson said. A substantial two-to-three-year project, the new building's footprint first requires the completion of a new parking structure currently under way at the southwest corner of the campus.

We can only begin to predict how mobility will change in future generations," said Michael Simcoe, vice president of Global Design. "Investing in our creative and skilled team and providing them with inspiring, modern spaces, new technologies and more ways to work together will foster innovation that leads to real solutions for customers.'

GM's multiyear Technical Cen-



A rendering of the GM Design Center once construction, set to begin in 2018, is completed.

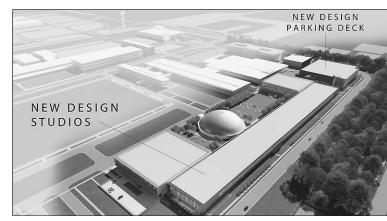
ter campus investment has included new construction, significant renovations of some existing facilities and the expansion of some operations, Henderson said. Construction began in May 2015.

Significant building renovations

- Vehicle Engineering Center;
- Alternative Energy Center, including a new Structural Development Lab;
- Pre-Production Operations;
- Engineering West and South.

Design and construction for GM's new Design studios is managed by Walbridge, in partnership with SmithGroup JJR, which received an honor award from the American Institute of Architects for its work on the interior renovation of the GM Design Dome and Auditorium in 2014.

Simcoe, the seventh Design leader in GM history, has been instrumental in the development and expansion of other GM global design studios. Now past its 90th



Rendering of how Design Center will look once construction is finished.

year, GM Design was established in 1927 as The Art and Colour Section by the legendary Harley Earl.

The Tech Center campus, designed by world-renowned architect Eero Saarinen and landscape architect Thomas Church, opened in 1956 and was the pinnacle of engineering, design and advanced technology at the time, Henderson said. It was named a National Historic Landmark in 2014 by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

In 2000, the campus was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1986, the American Institute of Architects honored the Tech Center as the most outstanding architectural project of its era.

#### **Dealership Sales Swept Away by Hurricane Harvey**

Though more than 1,000 miles from the Motor City, Hurricane Harvey will have a big impact on the auto industry.

The storm hit the city of Houston on Aug. 25 and according the U.S. Weather Bureau dumped record amounts of rain on the city and it surrounding suburbs.

As a result, according to the Associated Press, billionaire Warren Buffett says the storm damage in Texas is staggering, but he isn't sure yet how much insurance companies will have to pay in claims.

Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate owns Geico and several other insurers, so his company will be helping people rebuild. Buffett appeared on CNBC Aug. 30 before dining with the person who paid nearly \$2.7 million in a charity auction for lunch with Buffett.

Buffett says the effects of Hurricane Harvey will linger for some time. He expects that 50,000 of the roughly 500,000 vehicles Geico insures in the area will be total losses.

Buffett says Berkshire hasn't written much catastrophe insurance in recent years because prices were too low, so that will limit the Omaha, Nebraskabased company's exposure.

The Detroit News reported Texas is the auto industry's second-largest market in the U.S. after California, and major portions of the state's southeast region are under water with little or no relief in sight.

Auto production in the state led by General Motors Co. in Arlington and Toyota Motor Corp. in San Antonio - appears to have avoided major interruptions. The most immediate impact is being felt by dealers, many of whom have shut down operations and may have to wait weeks to know the full extent of damage to their properties and inventory.

With a large portion of southeast Texas effectively paralyzed by flood waters and continuing rainfall, near-term sales are likely to take a hit. As many as 20,000 to 40,000 new-vehicle sales could be delayed as a result of the storm, according to Cox Automotive estimates.

But a rebound is expected in the final months of the year as motorists replace damaged or totaled cars and trucks.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



2017 Ford F-Series Super Duty



2017 Dodge Challenger



2018 Chevrolet Traverse

# **GM Sees a Strong August; Weather Affects Overall Sales**

strong month for U.S. auto sales the nation. but Hurricane Harvey is putting

General Motors said its sales rose 7.5 percent over last August, while Toyota's were up 7 percent and Volkswagen's rose 9 percent. GM said sales of its small SUVs, including the new GMC Acadia and Chevrolet Equinox, jumped 47 percent. Toyota and Volkswagen also had strong SUV sales.

But not everyone got a boost. Nissan's sales dropped 13 percent and Fiat Chrysler's sales were down 11 percent. Ford's sales fell 2 percent.

U.S. auto sales were initially expected to increase slightly in August compared with a year ago, but analysts say lower sales in the Houston area could erase at least some of those gains. Harvey likely cut U.S. sales of new cars and trucks by 1.3 percent, or 20,000 vehicles, in August, forecasting firm LMC Automotive

The Houston metro area is the

pressure on some of those gains. month, August was shaping up to up and down the freeways he has just started reopening on Aug. be a strong month at the eight Bayway Auto Group dealerships that Darryl Wischnewsky owns in the Houston metro area. Then came Harvey. None of Wisch-

flooding or other damage in the shut down on Saturday, Aug. 26, Until the last Saturday of the storm, but he says other dealers as the storm approached and driven have lost all of their inventory and their buildings have been damaged.

His group, which includes Lincoln, Chevrolet, Fiat Chrysler,

DETROIT (AP) - August was a ninth-largest vehicle market in newsky's dealerships suffered Volkswagen and Volvo dealers, 31. Losing the one Saturday alone probably cost 60 to 70 sales, Wischnewski said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 



Ford and Domino's are working on autonomous delivery cars.

# Ford and Domino's Bring Pizza Delivery into Future

It was an inevitable match searchers from both companies made in automotive-mozzarella heaven – Ann Arbor-based Domino's and a Detroit automaker joining forces.

In this case, Domino's Pizza. the recognized world leader in pizza delivery, and Ford Motor Co. are launching an industryfirst collaboration to understand the role that self-driving vehicles can play in pizza delivery, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall.

As part of the testing, re-

will investigate customer reactions to interacting with a selfdriving vehicle as a part of their delivery experience, Hall said. This research is important as both companies begin to examine and understand customers' perspectives around the future of food delivery with self-driving vehicles.

"As delivery experts, we've

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

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#### Macomb Sheriff's Office Offering Senior Classes

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) - The Macomb County sheriff's office is looking for a few good seniors.

The sheriff's office is seeking seniors interested in participating in a free law enforcement academy.

Four workshops will be held on Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon and start Sept. 25 at the Macomb Intermediate School District in Clinton Township. Registrations are being accepted by tele-

The classes are intended to educate senior citizens about the operations of the sheriff's office and its various divisions in Macomb County.

Classes also are scheduled for October, beginning on Oct. 2, Oct. 9 and Oct. 16.

The detective bureau, evidence technician, youth bureau, firearms, corrections, Special Enforcement Team and Macomb Auto Theft Squad will be among the operations covered by the workshops.

# **Hurricane Harvey Effects Reach Up to Detroit's OEMs**



Cars and homes were destroyed by Hurricane Harvey.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

The cable financial channel CNBC reported that with hundreds of auto dealerships closed and vehicle imports slowing down, or in some cases stopping completely, Hurricane Harvey is slamming the brakes on the auto industry in southeastern Texas.

By extension, the entire industry will feel the impact of the storm that continues to inundate the Houston area.

The channel spoke with Auto-Nation executive vice president Marc Cannon, who said that the company, which owns 18 dealerships in the Houston area, is making sure that employees are

Cannon said that AutoNation is also working to get its dealerships open, but that will take time.

Christopher Hopson, a senior analyst for IHS Markit, said that, from what they've heard, production of vehicles in and around Houston shouldn't be affected that much. GM has a truck plant in Arlington, Texas, near Dallas, and Toyota has a truck plant in San Antonio.

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Engineering a

"While we haven't heard anything about the plants being shut down, that doesn't mean that a local single-source supplier down the supply chain hasn't been affected by the Harvey flooding," Hopson said. "In the past we've seen plants in places like Japan shut down after a natural disaster because while the plants weren't affected, their suppliers were."

> "When those insurance checks start coming in, we will probably see a rise in sales..."

- Christopher Hopson, IHS Markit

So, Hopson said, it's possible that some lesser-known area suppliers affected by the storm could cause problems later on.

As to the effect on sales, Hopson said that, in the short term, those affected by Harvey will



Many vehicles were stuck on flooded roads during the disaster.



Destroyed businesses could affect how fast Houston recovers

probably be too busy doing other things to go out and buy cars.

But, if the numbers reported are correct and 500,000 vehicles have been flooded, then in the longer term OEMs could see a rise in sales.

"Detroit automakers account for about 60 percent of sales in Houston market," Hopson

"When those insurance checks

start coming in, we will probably see a rise in sales as people replace vehicles they lost in the Harvev floods.'

Detroit automakers are still in the process of determining what to do as a result of Hurricane Harvey.

In a statement to the media, Ford reported, "we know for certain that many dealers in the area have sustained significant damage. We are gathering information from local authorities and dealers so we can offer our assistance in the most effective way possible.

"The Ford Motor Company Fund is contributing \$100,000 to disaster relief efforts in Texas, following historic flooding in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

"In addition, Ford Fund is matching up to \$50,000 in contributions to the American Red Cross ...

"Please join us in donating to the American Red Cross. Go to http://redcross.org/ford-emp to have your donation matched by Ford Fund."

Fiat Chrysler spokesman Kevin Frazier said the company is encouraging employees to donate cleaning supplies.

"There are two organizations that we are encouraging people to donate to," Frazier said. "One is Disaster Relief At Work (DRAW). We have bins employees can drop off cleaning supplies at. We will take what is collected to the DRAW facility in Waterford. The items will then be taken, along with whatever else DRAW collected, to Houston."

FCA is also encouraging employees to donate other essential supplies to bins that will be put out in plants and offices. The group "Stuff A Semi" is behind this effort, Frazier said.

Employees will take what is donated to Stuff A Semi's facility in Troy for transportation to Hous-





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TIME: 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (lunch included)

LOCATION: Courtyard Warren 30190 Van Dyke Avenue, Warren, MI 48093 (Across from GM Tech Center)

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

TIME: 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. (refreshments included)

LOCATION: Courtyard Warren 30190 Van Dyke Avenue, Warren, MI 48093 (Across from GM Tech Center)

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# Barra: 'We Can Work with Drivers to Make Roads Safer'

by Jim Stickford

Making Michigan roads safe to drive is everybody's business.

Which is why GM CEO Mary Athletic Club on Aug. 28 when the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Keifer Foundation revealed their first-of-a-kind public/private partnership to improve safety on Michigan highways using protective cables to create median barriers.

partnership between MDOT and the Kiefer Foundation will involve investing \$300,000 to add 17 miles of protective cable median barrier on I-96 from Doan Creek to east of Dietz Road in Ingham County.

The Kiefer Foundation was created by Steve Kiefer to honor his son Mitchell, who was killed a year ago on Sept. 19 when he was heading back to Michigan State.

His vehicle was struck from behind and pushed across the median into oncoming traffic. His car was hit by a truck and Mitchell Kiefer was killed.

The driver of the other vehicle was distracted at the time of the accident and didn't slow down as traffic in front of her slowed

Steve Kiefer said that if there had been a cable median barrier on I-96 in that part of Ingham County, his son would be alive

"Mitchell was an amazing per-

to change the world. He still will through the foundation that was created to honor his memory.'

Kiefer said that when he Barra was on hand at the Detroit learned of his son's death, he and his family were devastated. But they had a choice. They could let this tragedy destroy them, or they could use the pain as motivation to do something that would honor Mitchell and help make the world a better place.

The family decided to do something positive, Kiefer said. So they created the Kiefer Foundation to help with traffic safety and to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

"Nine people are killed every day on American roads because of distracted driving," Kiefer said, "That's horrific, Distracted driving is a behavior issue, and we will work to change behavior. Just look back 20 years ago. The notion of drinking and driving has changed so much since then. The idea that people won't wear seat belts has changed. The idea that people will light up a cigarette in someone's car or in a restaurant has become almost a crime, yet we will tolerate someone grabbing a cell phone and using it while driving a multi-ton vehicle on public roads. We can fix this. We can end distracted driving and end deaths that result from it within five years if we

Barra also spoke. She said that



Barra

GM is focused on road safety and making cars safer. But 94 percent of crashes are caused by driver

"Vehicle safety is literally in our hands," Barra said. "That's why we're so excited about autonomous driving technology. It will make our roads so much safer. But it will be a long time before that technology becomes widespread. In the meantime, we can work with drivers to help make roads safer. That's why we are partnering with organizations like the Kiefer Foundation. We want to help make sure that families don't get that phone call that will change lives forever."

State Transportaion Director Kirk Steudle, was also present at the announcement. He shared



Cable barriers can stop crashing cars from crossing medians.

some facts about cable guard rails in Michigan.

Cable median barriers have been proved to reduce cross-median crash rates by 87 percent, Steudle said. They form a part of the state's Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) safety campaign. Since their introduction in 2008, more than 380 miles of cable barrier have been installed.

Brad Wieferich, director of MDOT's Bureau of Development, was on hand and spoke to the media after the presentation.

He said the Kiefer Foundation's co-funding of the I-96 barrier is important because these barriers save lives, and anything that can be done to install more is a good

When asked why the state just

doesn't put up more itself, Wieferich said that it's a matter of funding.

"Cable barriers are just one of the many safety programs MDOT has to consider when determining how to balance our resources,' Wieferich said. "Determining this costs money. Surveys have to be done, and studies have to be made so that we know where we can spend money in a way that does the most good. This is just one safety program among many that need funding.'

So while cable barriers are effective, they are competing with other effective safety programs for funding. So having organizations like the Kiefer Foundation help cofund safety projects is something that will benefit everyone, he said.

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# **GM Sees Stronger Sales Despite Weather**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

"Just that one day in Houston, that's thousands of cars," he said. "I think it will probably affect the national numbers as well."

Now service is busy, but buyers are few as people try to recover from the massive rainfall, so the Labor Day weekend is likely to be slow.

Sales are expected to pick up in September and October as people replace cars destroyed by floods. Black Book, a service that determines used car prices for dealerships, estimates total losses of 500,000 to 1 million cars in the Houston area due to Harvey's rainfall. Vehicles also were damaged at around 500 dealers, the service said.

For August, automakers sent out these reports:

• General Motors Co. said its sales jumped 7.5 percent to 275,552. SUV sales were strong, as new SUVs like the GMC Terrain arrive in dealerships and dealers offer good deals on old Ram pickup, dropped 7 percent.

ones. GM also said its sales to rental car fleets rose 29 percent to 7,600 vehicles. But August was an anomaly; GM said it's still on track to cut low-profit rental car sales by 50,000 vehicles this year.

• Ford Motor Co. said its sales fell 2 percent to 209,897. Ford sold more than 77,000 F-Series pickups in August, a 15 percent gain over last August. But its SUV and car sales were down.

'We continue to see customers choosing high trim-level F-Series trucks for Super Duty and with new 2018 F-150 orders. We are seeing high demand overall for our F-Series lineup this year, outpacing full-size truck segment growth 2 to 1 with a 15 percent increase for August," said Mark LaNeve, vice president for U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service for

• Fiat Chrysler's sales fell 11 percent to 176,033. Sales of some individual models, like the Jeep Grand Cherokee and Dodge Caravan, saw strong growth, but sales of the company's best-seller, the

While FCA sales were down overall, FCA spokesman Ralph Kisiel said six FCA vehicles recorded their best August sales ever, including the Dodge Challenger and Chrysler Pacifica. The Jeep Compass, Jeep Renegade, Ram ProMaster and Ram ProMaster City also posted their bestever August sales. The Jeep Grand Cherokee and Jeep Wrangler turned in double-digit percentage increases in August, compared with the same month

The Dodge Grand Caravan posted a 62 percent year-overyear sales increase for its best August sales since 2004.

We had a very strong month, and grew our retail and commerfleet business on the strength of robust crossover sales at all four of our brands," said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president of Sales Operations. "But our focus is on the unfolding crisis in Texas and what we can do to help our customers, employees, dealers and everyone else impacted by the flooding.'



No driver means customers walk to the car to get their pizzas.

# Ford and Domino's Bring Pizza Delivery into Future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been watching the development of self-driving vehicles with great interest as we believe transportation is undergoing fundamental, dramatic change," said Patrick Doyle, Domino's president and CEO. "We pride ourselves on being technology leaders and are excited to help lead research into how self-driving vehicles may play a role in the future of pizza delivery. This is the first step in an ongoing process of testing that we plan to undertake with Ford.'

As Ford builds out its business enabled by self-driving vehicles, Hall said conducting research with companies, like Domino's, will be crucial to ensuring that the technology is applied in ways that enhance the customer experience. With a plan to begin production of selfdriving vehicles in 2021, Ford is

taking steps to design a business to meet the needs of both partner companies and their customers.

"As we increase our understanding of the business opportunity for self-driving vehicles to support the movement of people and goods, we're pleased to have Domino's join us in this important part of the development process," said Sherif Marakby, Ford vice president, Autonomous and Electric Vehicles. "As a company focused on the customer experience, Domino's shares our vision for a future enabled by smart vehicles in a smart environment that enhance people's lives.'

Over the next several weeks, randomly-selected Domino's customers in Ann Arbor will have the opportunity to receive their delivery order from a Ford Fusion Hybrid Autonomous Research Vehicle, which will be manually-driven by a Ford safety engineer and staffed with researchers, Hall said.

Customers who agree to participate will be able to track the delivery vehicle through GPS using an upgraded version of Domino's Tracker. They will also receive text messages as the self-driving vehicle approaches that will guide them on how to retrieve their pizza using a unique code to unlock the Domino's Heatwave Compartment inside the vehicle.

"We're interested to learn what people think about this type of delivery," said Russell Weiner, president of Domino's USA. "The majority of our questions are about the last 50 feet of the delivery experience. For instance, how will customers react to coming outside to get their food? We need to make sure the interface is clear and simple. We need to understand if a customer's experience is different if the car is parked in the driveway versus next to the curb. All of our testing research is focused on our goal to someday make deliveries with selfdriving vehicles as seamless and customer-friendly as possible."

Local partner Roush Enterprises fabricated the prototype vehicle's pizza container, Domino's Heatwave Compartment, based on its experience working with Domino's on the DXP delivery vehicle in 2015. Ford and Domino's completed preliminary testing of the delivery process using the vehicle in selfdriving mode at Mcity, the simulated urban environment on the University of Michigan's campus, Hall said. The city of Ann Arbor also has been supportive of the testing process.

"I'm delighted that Ann Arbor continues to be at the forefront autonomous-vehicle research," said Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor. "While it's pizza delivery today, my hope is that collaborations such as this will enable even more innovations tomorrow."

#### **Tesla Plant Starts Work on Solar Panels**

DETROIT (AP) - Tesla Inc. is starting production of the cells for its solar roof tiles at its factory in Buffalo, N.Y.

The company has already begun installing its solar roofs, which look like regular roofs but are made of glass tiles. But until now, it has been making them on a small scale near its vehicle factory in Fremont, Calif.

Tesla's Chief Technical Officer, JB Straubel, says the company now has several hundred workers and machinery installed in its 1.2-million-square-foot factory.

"By the end of this year, we will have the ramp-up of solar roof modules started in a substantial way," Straubel told The Associated Press Aug. 31. "This is an interesting milestone that we're pretty proud of."

The Buffalo plant was originally begun by Silevo, a solar panel startup, on the site of an old steel mill. Solar panel maker SolarCity Corp. bought Silevo in

Then Tesla acquired SolarCity for around \$2 billion late last year. SolarCity was run by cousins of Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who sat on SolarCity's board.

"This factory, and the opportunity to build solar modules and cells in the U.S., was part of why project made sense, Straubel said.

Tesla's partner, Panasonic Corp., will make the photovoltaic cells, which look similar to computer chips. Tesla workers will combine the cells into modules that fit into the roof tiles.

The tiles will eventually be made in Buffalo as well, along with more traditional solar panels.

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# **GM Tracks How Millenials Spend Free Time**

The younger generation travels differently than previous generations, and that's made a difference in GM's long-term plans.

Millennials love to travel and socialize during the summer and they don't mind spending money to do it, said GM spokeswoman Annalisa Bluhm.

This information came from Maven, which surveyed more than 2,000 millennials ages 18-35 and profiled their social calendars, spending habits and summer adventures.

During summer 2017 (June 21-Sept. 23), the Maven survey showed that millennials on average will attend 37 events and spend an incredible \$1,300 on socializing, Bluhm said.

They also said they are much more likely to attend social events in the summer compared with the winter.

This generation also has unmet travel needs. More than one in three wish they had access to an SUV/crossover, and nearly two-thirds of those surveyed would travel 100 miles or more for an event, Bluhm said. In fact, 30 percent of millennials' social events take place outside of the town or city where they live.

Enter Maven, the personal mobility app offering hourly and daily vehicle rentals in 14 North American cities. Maven is helping with all that summer socializing by providing free gas and including 180 free miles per day in every reservation.

Maven is a personal mobility app that provides hassle-free, on-demand vehicle access for travel, work and everyday life. Consumers and businesses can choose from tech-savvy vehicles that fit every need: hourly rentals for errands, weekly rentals for freelance work, or monthlong reservations. Maven members enjoy all the benefits of car ownership without the hassle, upkeep and cost. All reservations include insurance (minus a deductible). Maven leverages GM's portfolio of Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles.

Members can use Maven four different ways:

- Maven Gig allows members to earn money on their own terms by providing a vehicle that can be used delivering goods or transporting people.
- Maven City offers vehicles with dedicated parking spots for easy city driving, and gas is included.
- Maven Reserve lets members in Mayen city markets use a vehicle from seven to 28 days and comes with a \$100 gas card.
- Maven Home provides onsite car sharing for residential communities.

With Maven, millennials will always arrive in style to the pool party or barbecue, Bluhm said. Maven members - 80 percent of whom are millennials - can hit the road in a sporty crossover or SUV such as the Chevrolet Equinox and Tahoe, or the GMC Acadia, Buick Encore and Cadillac Escalade.

"Maven has a car for every occasion and experience," said Megan Stooke, Maven chief marketing officer. "From SUVs to

eco-friendly sedans, matching the best vehicle to the experience is part of what makes Maven a unique offering.

More than half noted that nice weather makes them more likely to attend or travel to a social event, followed closely by low gas prices, someone else driving, light traffic and access to a vehi-

Additionally:

- 37 percent wish they had access to a vehicle with better gas mileage.
- \$851 spent per summer per person on travel costs alone (not including work-related trav-
- They spend 4 hours and 47 minutes per week traveling for non-work reasons and 62 hours traveling for social events each summer.
- 62 percent are more spontaneous during the summer.
- 63 percent are more likely to cancel social plans in colder months.

"This research reinforces that experiences for millennials are critically important," Stooke said. "Maven provides seamless connectivity through an on-demand app, available for use by the hour or by the day, allowing our members to be there for moments that matter. We are a key enabler."

#### Federal Judge Sentences VW Exec to Three Years

DETROIT (AP) - A Volkswagen mental regulators announced engineer who had a key role in the company's diesel emissions scandal was sentenced Aug. 25 to more than three years in prison and a \$200,000 fine, a steeper punishment than prosecutors requested.

James Robert Liang, 63, knew the German automaker was cheating and worked to cover it up, U.S. District Court Judge Sean Cox said during the sentencing hearing in Detroit. The judge imposed a 40-month prison sentence.

"The conspiracy perpetrated a massive . . . and stunning fraud on the American consumer that attacked and destroyed the very foundation of our economic system." Cox said.

Liang, who faces deportation to Germany upon his release from prison, declined to speak on his own behalf. Prosecutors had requested a 36-month prison term and a \$20,000 fine.

Prosecutors said Liang was aware that VW used software to cheat U.S. emissions rules on nearly 600,000 diesel vehicles. His lawyer said he's not "greedy or immoral" but followed orders to keep his job and support his family.

"What occurred here was wrong," defense attorney Daniel Nixon said. "But he wasn't the mastermind. He was not motivated by greed."

Liang pleaded guilty last year to one count of conspiracy to defraud the government and agreed to cooperate with investigators. Liang had asked the judge to consider a sentence of probation and 1,500 hours of community service.

He is one of two VW employees to plead guilty. Earlier this month, Oliver Schmidt, 48, a former manager of a VW engineering office in suburban Detroit, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and fraud charges related to the scandal. He is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 6.

VW itself pleaded guilty in March to defrauding the U.S. government and agreed to pay \$4.3 billion in penalties, on top of billions more to buy back cars.

Others charged in the case are in Germany and out of reach.

Volkswagen and U.S. environ-

agreement last month on a plan for the automaker to fix most of the diesel cars involved in the emissions cheating scandal.

Volkswagen has admitted that the cars were sold with illegal software programmed to turn on emissions controls during government lab tests and turn them off while on the road. Investigators determined that the cars emitted more than 40 times the legal limit of nitrogen oxide, which can cause respiratory problems in humans.

The company got away with the scheme for seven years until independent researchers reported it to government regulators.

#### **Local Car Show To End 2017** Cruise Season

The Lakeshore chapter of the The Vintage Motor Car Club of America is holding its 21st annual car show on Sunday, Sept. 17, at Blossom Heath Park, 24800 Jefferson Avenue in St. Clair Shores.

The event begins at 10 a.m. and will last five hours, said club spokesman John Ambrogio.

"This is a popular event we hold every year," Ambrogio said. "There is absolutely no cost to spectators and we think this is a pretty good way for car buffs to end the summer car show and car cruising season."

Ambrogio said that show car registration will take place the day of the show and that all show cars must be parked on the field by 11 a.m. The cost of entering a show car is \$20.

A sale corral will also be held, Ambrogio said, as well as swap spaces. The fee for setting aside a space in either the corral or the swap space is \$15.

"Local car clubs affiliated with the VMCCA and our regions offer a great way to meet friends,' Ambrogio said. "You don't have to own a car to belong to the VMCCA. If you enjoy old cars, you can join our club.

Those wishing to learn more about the show should call 586-293-1284. For swap show info, call 586-776-5373.

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- Remote Keyless Entry! Stock# H33246

Was \$26,000 Sale Price: \$19,899\*

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#### 2017 CRUZE "LT"

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- Color Touch Screen Radio!
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- Remote Start and Entry!
- Rear Vision Camera!
- Bluetooth for Phone! Stock# H39537

Was \$23,475 Sale Price: \$16,299\*

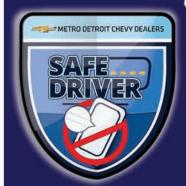
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- Aluminum Wheels! Bluetooth for Phone! Stock# J39796

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